NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN RE:

THE EL FARO INCIDENT OFF THE: NTSB Accident No.

COAST OF THE BAHAMAS ON : DCA16MM001

OCTOBER 1, 2015

INTERVIEW OF: LEE PETERSON

Wednesday,

October 14, 2015

Marriott Hotel

Jacksonville, Florida

USCG Seventh District Command Center

Miami, Florida

BEFORE:

TOM ROTH-ROFFY, Investigator-in-charge, NTSB

CARRIE BELL, NTSB

MIKE KUCHARSKI, NTSB

BRIAN YOUNG, NTSB

U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard

LOUIS O'DONNELL, ABS

LCDR U.S. Coast Guard

MELISSA SERRIDGE, TOTE Services

AL SHEPHERD, ABS

KEVIN STITH, TOTE Services

JIM FISKER-ANDERSEN, TOTE Services

PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE INTERVIEWEE:

GIL FELTEL, ESQ., Tanner Bishop

This transcript was produced from audio provided by the

National Transportation Safety Board.

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

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(1:16 p.m.)

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MR. KUCHARSKI: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for being here. The reason we're here is to interview Lee Peterson. Mr. Peterson will be interviewed in reference to the El Faro incident which recently occurred.

Mr. Peterson, before I go through some of the pro forma, if you will, do you mind if I record this interview?

MR. PETERSON: I don't mind.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Thank you. The purpose of this investigation is to increase safety, not to assign fault, blame, or liability. The NTSB cannot offer any guarantee of confidentiality or immunity from legal or certificate actions. A transcript or summary of the interview will go into the public docket.

Now, if you tell me so or you let us know, I say us, NTSB, through your representative, if you let us know that you would like to review that transcript, we'll be more than glad to provide you a copy before it is put into the docket, so you have an opportunity to correct any glaring problems that we have with the transcription.

MR. PETERSON: Okay, I understand.

MR. KUCHARSKI: You're allowed to have one 1 2 personal representative of your choice. Do you have a 3 personal representative here? 4 MR. PETERSON: I do. 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. We will shortly go 6 around the room to identify everyone. 7 representative may be an attorney, not required to be an attorney. The representative may not testify on 8 9 your behalf, but you're welcome to consult your 10 personal representative before you answer. 11 The representative comments should be 12 limited. Legal evidentiary objections are not grounds 13 for us asking the questions, from refraining from 14 asking and asking for you to reply. Any questions so 15 far? 16 MR. PETERSON: No. 17 MR. KUCHARSKI: The NTSB is an independent 18 I think you probably heard this. agency. 19 charged by Congress for determining probable cause. We 20 have no regulatory or enforcement powers. 21 We have a party system, as you probably are 22 well aware, and there are many party members that 23 participate in our groups. We're formed at different 24 groups.

The reason we're doing this investigation,

it's fact finding. We analyze, we determine probable cause, and will likely, very likely for the magnitude of this incident, we will have recommendations.

Please just answer to the best of your knowledge. If you don't know, that's fine. And if you want to revisit a question or an answer, that's fine.

That's fine.

I would ask if there's any, it's not try to deceive you or get a certain answer. If the line of questioning or whatever is confusing, ask to rephrase whatever it may be or we can go off the record.

I've gone back off the record quite a while and gone back on because it was obvious when I talked everybody thought, maybe the answer was confusing based on how I formed the question, so that's fine.

After the interview, there is the chance that you will be re-interviewed again, so I'll ask if you have any information, you know how to contact me, it would be helpful.

MR. PETERSON: Okay.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Any questions so far?

MR. PETERSON: No, sir.

MR. KUCHARSKI: All right. So let's go around the room, starting on your right, proceed around clockwise.

1	MR. FELTEL: Gilbert Feltel, Tanner Bishop
2	law firm here as Mr. Peterson's representative.
3	MR. O'DONNELL: Louis O'Donnell, ABS, part
4	of the engineering group.
5	MR. YOUNG: Brian Young, NTSB, engineering
6	group chairman.
7	MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB, human
8	performance group chairman.
9	MR. Coast Guard
LO	civilian investigator, human performance group.
11	MS. SERRIDGE: Melissa Serridge, TOTE
12	Services, human performance group.
13	MR. STITH: Kevin Stith, TOTE Services,
14	operation group.
15	MR. SHEPHERD: Al Shepherd, American Bureau
16	of Shipping, participating with the human performance
L7	group.
18	MR. With the Coast
19	Guard, operations group.
20	MR. With U.S. Coast Guard with
21	the engineering group.
22	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Good afternoon. Tom Roth-
23	Roffy, National Transportation Safety Board,
24	investigator in charge.
25	MR. KUCHARSKI: And to the group as a whole,

_	as we did in our last interview, i'd like to ask the
2	question, we'll solicit the answer, and then if there
3	are any follow-on questions to that particular answer,
4	let's try to limit to that particular and then I'll
5	open it up at the end if there are any general
6	questions.
7	Mr. Peterson, and let me note the time if I
8	haven't. It's now 1321. Mr. Peterson, would you spell
9	your full name for us?
LO	MR. PETERSON: Sure. Kenneth Lee Peterson,
L1	that's K-E-N-N-E-T-H, L-E-E, P-E-T-E-R-S-O-N.
L2	MR. KUCHARSKI: Thank you. Mr. Peterson,
L3	would you tell us what your position is at TOTE?
L4	MR. PETERSON: I'm the director of marine
L5	services.
L6	MR. KUCHARSKI: You're the director of, I'm
L7	sorry?
L8	MR. PETERSON: Marine services.
L9	MR. KUCHARSKI: Marine services, okay. And
20	the entity that this is, could you give us the full
21	name of the entity?
22	MR. PETERSON: TOTE Services, Inc.
23	MR. KUCHARSKI: Great. Would you tell us
24	about your background, your marine-related background
25	that prepared you for your current position?

MR. PETERSON: Sure. I'm a 1979 graduate, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. I sailed with MEBA out of the Hall (phonetic) immediately out of school, and in about 1988 I was offered a permanent first job on the Sea-Land Voyager I took and I continued to sail for Sea-Land until I quit sailing in 2003. I sailed chief for about the last five years of that.

Concurrent with that and in 1988, I went into business with two other gentlemen. We started up Pacific Marine Surveys. We did condition valuation, on-hires, off-hires, damage surveys.

That morphed into, when one of the gentlemen left to go to work for Foss two years later, we changed the name of the company to McDonnell and Peterson and our focus was on steam turbine mechanical drive systems, mainly marine, some shoreside stuff. But that company, when I quit sailing in 2003, went full time into that and that company, that relationship was continued until 2010.

Sea Star was, initially TOTE was one of our customers and then they asked us to come down and do the Sea Star ships starting in about 2000, so we were their representative for any work done on the steam turbines and mechanical drive systems, the power generation systems that had to do with anything with

steam turbines on the ships. 1 2 In 2010, the AVP with Sea Star asked me if 3 I'd like to come down and be a port engineer for it. 4 So I took that job. I started that job in August of 5 2010. 6 In 2011, towards the fourth quarter 2011 7 November, they had a reorganization of the company 8 where the engineering group was now part of the Totem 9 Ocean so I was left as the single representative down 10 here in Jacksonville for those ships. 11 I was offered my current position in late 12 2013 when it started in January of 2014. 13 MR. KUCHARSKI: We had someone just enter 14 the room after we gave the introductions. Would you 15 mind introducing yourself, please? 16 MR. FISKER-ANDERSEN: Jim Fisker-Andersen 17 with TOTE Services and part of the NTSB engineering 18 group. 19 MR. KUCHARSKI: Thank you. Mr. Peterson, 20 you stated your position as director of marine 21 services, is that correct? 22 MR. PETERSON: Correct. 23 MR. KUCHARSKI: Let me just take a moment. 24 Could everyone make sure that their alarms or cell

phones are silenced, please? Thank you.

I think you've seen this. I think you may 1 2 have actually given me this organizational chart. 3 sent it. MR. PETERSON: Yes, sir. 4 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: According to this, it says 6 you're director, safety and services. 7 MR. PETERSON: Correct. MR. KUCHARSKI: Is that incorrect? 8 9 MR. PETERSON: Yes, it is. My title is director of marine services. 10 11 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. And could you tell me 12 or tell us what your job entails as director of marine 13 services? 14 I've got John Lawrence with MR. PETERSON: 15 the safety department is under me and I also have the 16 purchasing department. I'm the IT liaison with our 17 provider also. 18 My main focus actually for the last year has 19 been on the LNG bunkering. I'm the team lead for that, for the TOTE team coming up with a solution for 20 21 bunkering our ships when they get into Jacksonville and 22 that's been my biggest focus over the last year. 23 MR. KUCHARSKI: And when you say that's been your biggest focus or your main focus over the last 24 25 year, the LNG bunkering, is that related to some of the

ships that you have coming in or --

MR. PETERSON: Correct. The new ships that are coming in, it was a chicken and egg situation where, you know, the infrastructure for LNG bunkering versus having a ship that burns LNG, so we had to come up with an interim solution.

Eventually the ships will be bunkered by barge and a liquefaction plant is currently being built in Jacksonville. That will be up and running in the fourth quarter of next year.

But for that year, we needed to come up with a solution for bunkering these ships with LNG, so we've come up with a design for bunkering them with ISO tanks. We've purchased 25 ISO tanks. They have a little bit of a custom design to them and a 53-foot skid that is equipped with pumps to discharge those ISO tanks onto the ship. So it's been a lot of regulatory, a lot of involvement with the Coast Guard, and then just getting the designs together.

MR. KUCHARSKI: I'm going to stop here briefly and ask the group, just on his job description, okay, I have questions for his reports, direct, but just on his job description, does anybody have any question to that?

MR. Coast Guard.

1	This organization chart was updated or it looks like
2	the date on it is March of 2015. Would that be
3	correct?
4	MR. PETERSON: That sounds right.
5	MR. How much of your, in your job
6	as director of marine services, how much of your job is
7	taken up by the LNG products by percentage of time?
8	MR. PETERSON: Right now I'd say probably 85
9	percent.
10	MR. Does anybody backfill your
11	responsibilities that have been taken up by the LNG
12	project?
13	MR. PETERSON: No. No.
14	MR. Does anybody provide
15	assistance to you in managing, not entirely, but some
16	of the projects you previously were involved with?
17	MR. PETERSON: Well, the projects previous
18	were with John and his group. You know, we've been
19	going through the manuals and updating on a regular
20	basis.
21	But the way our office is laid out, I've got
22	John and Patty sitting right in front of me. These are
23	all cubicles, so there's a constant communication back
24	and forth on anything that's happening. John will yell
25	over to me do you want to be copied in on this email?

Do you want -- So there is that constant communication 1 2 in there. 3 But they're a pretty self-sufficient group, as is purchasing. Our purchasing manager is fantastic, 4 5 and there really isn't a lot of guidance needed with 6 those people. 7 MR. KUCHARSKI: Just for a point of clarification, this is Mike Kucharski again, could you 8 9 tell us who you mean by John and Patty? 10 MR. PETERSON: Sure. John Lawrence and 11 Patty Finsterbusch. 12 MR. KUCHARSKI: Thank you. did you 13 have --14 MR. with the Coast 15 Guard. So the LNG project, how long have you been involved this much? You said 85 percent. Would this 16 17 have been the last year? Can you give us a time frame 18 you've been engaged in that project? 19 MR. PETERSON: I've been engaged with the project since just about the beginning of my job. 20 21 Initially it was going out for finding sources for LNG. 22 It's ramped up probably since about January. Before 23 that it was probably a good half of my job. 24 Then when you say beginning of 25 my job, what would be the time frame where 85 percent

1	of your time, approximately
2	MR. PETERSON: I'd say since about last
3	January.
4	MR. So January '15?
5	MR. PETERSON: Of this year. Of this year,
6	yes.
7	MR. Thank you very much.
8	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
9	MR. SHEPHERD: Al Shepherd, American Bureau
10	of Shipping. Lee, just one question. It came up
11	yesterday in our interview with John Lawrence. You're
12	also the assistant designated person, is that correct?
13	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
14	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Thank you.
15	MR. KUCHARSKI: Mr. Peterson, would you
16	remind me again when you started in this position, how
17	long ago?
18	MR. PETERSON: Would have been January of
19	2014.
20	MR. KUCHARSKI: Could you tell me who you
21	report to directly?
22	MR. PETERSON: Phil Greene, president.
23	MR. KUCHARSKI: And could you tell us who
24	are your direct reports? Who reports to you?
25	MR. PETERSON: John Lawrence and Lisa Gee,

G-E-E. 1 2 MR. KUCHARSKI: And Lisa Gee is? 3 MR. PETERSON: Excuse me, purchasing 4 manager. 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, I see a position in --6 okay, I see. Contracts manager, does that report to 7 you? 8 MR. PETERSON: No. No. 9 MR. KUCHARSKI: So would you tell us over the past, well, actually now that you've mentioned that 10 11 you had ramped up 85 percent, so prior to January, 12 could you tell us your daily, day-to-day type 13 activities? 14 MR. PETERSON: Working the emails. 15 was a lot of IT issues when we first moved into this 16 office. I was the guy who was down here in 17 Jacksonville while we were getting ready to get in the 18 office. 19 So the company was still up in New Jersey until, I believe it was about June I want to say. 20 didn't actually get into the office until July but we 21 22 were working out of the Sea Star offices for about a 23 month I believe. 24 MR. KUCHARSKI: July of last year? MR. PETERSON: Of '14. Of '14. So it was 25

ramping up the office. There was a lot of new people. 1 2 We had the purchasing group that was all new coming 3 into this. Patty and John were new to the organization. So it was a lot of just getting people 4 5 up to speed, making sure everybody understood what 6 their duties are. 7 MR. KUCHARSKI: So before January, it was 8 mainly just getting this up to speed? 9 MR. PETERSON: Yes, getting that up and 10 going and there was a lot of, there was still this LNG 11 element going on. We had requests for proposals out 12 for people to provide the LNG for us, so there was a bit of travel involved. 13 MR. KUCHARSKI: So as director of marine 14 15 services, do somehow the ships' needs come in through 16 your office in any way, shape, or form? 17 MR. PETERSON: Not directly. It would be 18 through my reports. 19 MR. KUCHARSKI: But you would oversee the 20 direct reports? 21 MR. PETERSON: Being Lisa Gee and John. MR. KUCHARSKI: And John, right. And then 22 23 after the January 1st, you said about 85 percent of 24 your daily workload or your main focus was on the LNG 25 bunkering?

1	MR. PETERSON: Yes, and that's what it's
2	ramped up to be currently is where I was at. So I
3	don't know if, I would say 85 percent starting in
4	January but I was part of that LNG team. And when the
5	lead on that quit, they gave me the lead so it ramped
6	up pretty quick.
7	MR. KUCHARSKI: And who was the lead that
8	quit?
9	MR. PETERSON: He worked for Moffatt Nichol.
10	He didn't work for our company. His name was Cox. I
11	don't remember what his first name is now off the top
12	of my head. Richard Cox.
13	MR. KUCHARSKI: And I'm sorry, he worked for
14	who?
15	MR. PETERSON: Moffatt Nichol.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: Going to pause there. Any
L 7	questions from around the room?
18	MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. I noticed on
19	the org chart there is a position under John Lawrence
20	called safety and ops coordinator and it looks like
21	it's to be determined. It's not filled already?
22	MR. PETERSON: That was a proposal we were
23	looking into. It has not been. It has not been
24	filled.
25	MS. BELL: What kind of position is that?

1	MR. PETERSON: We were thinking about
2	somebody just to handle the updating of our safety
3	management system documents in more of an admin
4	position.
5	MS. BELL: Okay, and so who currently does
6	that?
7	MR. PETERSON: Well, that's spread out
8	between Patty and John and some other people in the
9	office.
10	MS. BELL: Okay, thank you.
11	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
12	MR. Coast Guard.
13	Could you give me the, you said John Lawrence was a new
14	hire, relatively speaking.
15	MR. PETERSON: Since we moved down from New
16	Jersey, right.
17	MR. Okay. Could you describe for
18	me what the position description was for his job when
19	you advertised that job?
20	MR. PETERSON: It was for someone to do the
21	safety and compliance, basically the same job he had
22	had before. I mean, we'd have to pull out what the job
23	description was at the time.
24	MR. And could you go a little
25	deeper into the safety and compliance?

1	MR. PETERSON: Managing the safety
2	management system, taking care of that. He also
3	oversees some of the ISO operation for the company on
4	that side, being the designated person in the job
5	descriptions that he's got.
6	MR. Did his job description, did
7	the position description for that job include oversight
8	of nautical operations?
9	MR. PETERSON: No.
10	MR. Thank you.
11	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: I'm sorry, just to follow
12	up what said. you said that Tom Roth-
13	Roffy, NTSB. You said the job description at the time
14	did not include oversight of nautical operations. Does
15	it currently have?
16	MR. PETERSON: No. No, sir.
17	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: So he is not responsible
18	for that function?
19	MR. PETERSON: No. I mean, it's a
20	small company so he's there as a resource for anybody
21	who needs it. Just as Phil was talking earlier, it's a
22	resource for us.
23	Like I say, it's a small company. We
24	encourage the crew to reach out to whoever they want.
25	They'll usually copy in the port engineer so that they

know what's going on, but. 1 2 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: And I believe Mr. Morrell 3 also mentioned a port captain. Is that another position? 4 5 MR. PETERSON: Yes. That's Eunice Cadorette 6 I might not be pronouncing, I didn't quite get 7 that right. She's a port captain for the SBX-1. was talked about before, that that's a one-off 8 9 (phonetic) and that's a government requirement to have a port captain for those. 10 11 But it's not, we're required to have that 12 position but it really doesn't fill all that time so 13 she has the opportunity to help out with other tasks as 14 needed. 15 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: And do you have any idea 16 what government requirement requires such a position, 17 port captain? 18 MR. PETERSON: I could not tell you. 19 could not tell you. MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Who would in the 20 21 government, is it maritime's inspiration (phonetic) or 22 MSC or --23 MR. PETERSON: That's an MSC. 24 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: And can you provide the 25 contact, point of contact information or name of that

1	person at MSC that perhaps would have some knowledge of
2	that requirement of port captain?
3	MR. PETERSON: Sure. We can get that.
4	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay.
5	MR. Follow up.
6	Coast Guard. So who in the company does formally
7	provide oversight for nautical operations?
8	MR. PETERSON: There is no one in the
9	company that formally provides oversight for nautical.
10	We depend on the captains to take on that role.
11	MR. Okay. Thank you.
12	MR. KUCHARSKI: General questions on
13	structure or job description and job, his daily duties?
14	Mr. Peterson
15	MR. PETERSON: Yes, sir.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: do you also, as part of
17	your duties, sit in on the shoreside safety meetings?
18	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
19	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, I'll come back to the
20	shoreside safety meetings. I just wanted to
21	MR. PETERSON: Yes, I do.
22	MR. KUCHARSKI: identify if you did.
23	MR. PETERSON: Yes, I do.
24	MR. KUCHARSKI: Yes, that was Mike Kucharski
25	asking the questions. Any other duties that you can

think of that you perform? Not day-to-day now. I said 1 2 day-to-day before, other duties maybe that you're part 3 of. 4 MR. PETERSON: No. 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you get involved at all 6 with the evaluation of people or the review of the 7 evaluations? MR. PETERSON: Just within the company, my 8 9 reports. 10 MR. KUCHARSKI: Just of your reports? 11 Just my reports. MR. PETERSON: 12 MR. KUCHARSKI: How about the shipboard 13 personnel? 14 MR. PETERSON: Not anymore. I did when I 15 was port engineer but I don't now. 16 MR. KUCHARSKI: Thank you. I think we have 17 a very good overview of TOTE Services now so I don't 18 think I'll continue on them. 19 The purchasing people that you have under you, do they purchase solely for the ships or do they 20 21 also purchase for the office or shoreside type? 22 MR. PETERSON: They purchase for the office 23 but, like I said, it's a very small office so it's 24 pretty minimal as far as the time that they put out for 25 that.

MR. KUCHARSKI: How about for any of the 1 2 TOTE Maritime-type operations? Do they have any 3 collateral purchasing for them? Shoreside you're talking? 4 MR. PETERSON: 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yes. 6 MR. PETERSON: No. No. It's strictly the 7 vessels. Okay. 8 MR. KUCHARSKI: Strictly the vessels. 9 Questions on purchasing or --10 MR. YOUNG: Brian Young with the NTSB. Is 11 there one purchasing agent for all your vessels? 12 MR. PETERSON: No, we have the, you got the 13 org chart in front of you as far as what the actual 14 numbers are, but we have three people that actually do 15 purchasing. There's an assistant manager, an invoice 16 processor. 17 So she has the ships divided up between the 18 -- and it's not just the Totem ships. So we've got the 19 ARC (phonetic) ships as well as the MSC and the 20 Mirrorhead (phonetic). Now, of course, the MSC and 21 Mirrorhead generally aren't going anywhere so there's 22 not quite as, they're not quite as intense. 23 But the general process from her side, she 24 has each of these purchasing technicians assigned to a 25 certain ship and they communicate with the ship

directly. If the chief, major, captain or chief engineer have a part that they're not getting, they don't hesitate to -- And it's a good relationship and these people really do care about making sure that they keep these guys happy. And I'm all over that because of my background. I've been on the other side, so they understand where that's coming from too.

But everything funnels through our, for the Sea Star operation, for the TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico operation, it all funnels through our warehouse that's about a mile away from the port.

We have a dedicated warehouse man that's out there and he will actually receive those parts. He writes down what he's received and sends it off to Lisa Gee for her tracking purposes. That is not considered received on the ship though.

So then he actually delivers the parts to the ship and then they will go back into EMOS (phonetic) and do the actual receipt part so that the invoice processor knows that he can pay the invoice.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. I'm sorry to go back to the org chart but I have another question there. I notice that there's a dotted line that goes from the VP of marine operations to the assistant

1	manager of safety and ops.
2	MR. PETERSON: Patty, yes.
3	MS. BELL: Can you explain that?
4	MR. PETERSON: Absolutely. Yes, absolutely.
5	Patty was originally brought This was another one of
6	these government contracts like with required to have a
7	port captain. We're required to have a property
8	manager for the, our other, the Wheeler, right, for the
9	other MSC ship. So and it's really minimal time. So
10	that's what the dotted line is. Because the Wheeler is
11	underneath Mitch Walker being a government ship so
12	that's
13	MS. BELL: So she reports up to him on just
14	that
15	MR. PETERSON: Just for that job, yes.
16	MS. BELL: Okay. Thank you.
17	MR. Just a
18	clarification. Is the Wheeler the dredge Wheeler or is
19	that the gas pipeline?
20	MR. PETERSON: It's the one for sending the
21	gas.
22	MR. The gas. All right, thank
23	you.
24	MR. PETERSON: Yes. Right.
25	MR. The General Wheeler or the

1	Wheeler?
2	MR. PETERSON: I'm not sure what the
3	official name, what's in front, there is some
4	PARTICIPANT: USNS Wheeler.
5	MR. PETERSON: Is that it?
6	(Simultaneous speaking)
7	MR. KUCHARSKI: Excuse me, excuse me.
8	MR. PETERSON: Sorry.
9	MR. KUCHARSKI: Please, before you just
10	blurt anything out, identify yourself so we have this
11	for the record. Anybody like to speak?
12	MR. Coast Guard. I
13	understand it's the gas tank pipeline?
14	MR. PETERSON: Right. Right.
15	MR. Thank you.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: Go around the room. Anybody
17	else?
18	So if I understand correctly, purchasing
19	covers all the ships, government, commercial, all the
20	ships.
21	MR. PETERSON: Correct. We do not do the
22	Pasha (phonetic) ships. We only do the crewing for
23	those, but we do all the other ships.
24	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, and by the
25	organization chart here, I see three buyers, one

invoice processor, and one invoice processor TBD 1 2 (phonetic). 3 MR. PETERSON: One of the people that are over on the billing side, she works a good part of her 4 5 time with Lisa's department in addition to that. 6 MR. KUCHARSKI: Thank you. Do you have any, 7 do you review any of the master's decisions? 8 MR. PETERSON: No, I do not. Well, what do 9 you mean by master decisions? 10 MR. KUCHARSKI: Anything safety related. 11 MR. PETERSON: I do not review as far as an 12 official signature on them or anything like that. 13 review, they send their safety minutes in and they have 14 their regular log sheets with the company on a myriad 15 of things, medical logs. But the security logs, all those kind of 16 17 things, they'll come across in my emails but I don't do 18 anything official with them as far as signing off on 19 them or anything like that. It's just an awareness for 20 me. Just an awareness. 21 MR. KUCHARSKI: And why is it an awareness? 22 Why do they make that awareness to you? 23 MR. PETERSON: Because most of those things 24 go out to the ops group which, and I'm just on that distribution list. 25

1	MR. KUCHARSKI: I see.
2	MR. PETERSON: It's not specifically to me.
3	MR. KUCHARSKI: You mentioned that your
4	title, I may go back to that a number of times, marine
5	services, but the manager of safety is a direct report
6	to you, correct?
7	MR. PETERSON: Correct.
8	MR. KUCHARSKI: So would, then, safety fall
9	under, shipboard safety fall under your purview?
10	MR. PETERSON: My department.
11	MR. KUCHARSKI: Yes.
12	MR. PETERSON: Right. Right.
13	MR. KUCHARSKI: How are you compensated for
14	your employment?
15	MR. PETERSON: Salary. I mean
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: Yes, how are you, are you
17	salary? Are you salaried? Do you
18	MR. PETERSON: I am salaried, yes.
19	MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you get a bonus?
20	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
21	MR. KUCHARSKI: What's that tied to?
22	MR. PETERSON: They've got a performance
23	matrix that includes safety as being part of that.
24	Now, I haven't seen it for this last year, what exactly
25	was involved with.

1	I know with Sea Star there was, no, I know
2	in ours too. It's a reduction in the incidents we
3	have, so it's the rates for lost time and reportable
4	per whatever that, however they do that for so many
5	hours, man hours. So we're looking to have a reduction
6	and I believe we were looking for a ten percent
7	reduction.
8	MR. KUCHARSKI: A ten percent reduction in?
9	MR. PETERSON: That rate.
10	MR. KUCHARSKI: In that rate. And the
11	incidents did you say?
12	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
13	MR. KUCHARSKI: Would they be personal
14	injury or what
15	MR. PETERSON: It was for reportables and
16	for lost time.
17	MR. KUCHARSKI: Can you tell us what the
18	other parameters besides safety are tied to that bonus?
19	(Off the record comments)
20	MR. PETERSON: That's a good point, yes. I
21	know there was some stuff on the profitability of the
22	company and such but, I mean, it's a document. I could
23	probably come up with that for you if you guys would be
24	interested in seeing it.
25	MR. KUCHARSKI: Just the parameters, yes.

1	MR. PETERSON: Yes, just those bullet
2	points. And with that, though, I know there have been
3	changes now with more shared services coming online so
4	I know they're changing that, but I'll look for what we
5	had in place when I had my last bonuses.
6	MR. KUCHARSKI: Would that bonus just be for
7	you or for other personnel ashore and at what level
8	would that, would it go filter all the way down to the
9	
10	MR. PETERSON: Oh, it's company wide,
11	company wide.
12	MR. KUCHARSKI: So the person, the invoice
13	person who would
14	MR. PETERSON: Yes. Yes.
15	MR. KUCHARSKI: And is that a pro-rated type
16	bonus?
17	MR. PETERSON: I'm not sure. I just know
18	what I get.
19	MR. KUCHARSKI: Let me stop there and see if
20	there are any questions here.
21	MR. Coast Guard.
22	Does everybody in the company get a bonus?
23	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
24	MR. Is there a reason why someone
25	might not get a bonus?

1	MR. PETERSON: I couldn't tell you.
2	MR. Do masters get a bonus?
3	MR. PETERSON: No. I'll go a little further
4	than that. With Sea Star, they used to give a similar
5	bonus to what Phil Morrell had spoken to. Basically it
6	was just a Christmas bonus. It wasn't really related
7	to any performance issues and it would be, the top four
8	would just get a set amount of money, same amount of
9	money, all four of them.
10	And when I came to work for the company
11	2010, the bonuses had stopped. I don't know what year
12	they quit. But there just wasn't the profitability in
13	the company right then, so that has never been
14	reinstated for the vessels.
15	MR. So the bonus amount can vary
16	based on those matrix factors from year to year?
17	MR. PETERSON: For us, not for the ships.
18	The ships were, it was
19	MR. I'm not talking about the
20	Christmas bonus. I'm talking about the other bonuses.
21	MR. PETERSON: For the people on ship
22	(phonetic)?
23	MR. Yes, (inaudible).
24	MR. PETERSON: Yes. Yes. Right.
25	MR. Okay. Thank you.

1	MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. So do you, as
2	the director, have to authorize the bonuses?
3	MR. PETERSON: It was not done that way this
4	year. I don't know who decided this year.
5	MS. BELL: Okay. So typically do you have
6	to authorize those or how does it work?
7	MR. PETERSON: I can't speak to what this
8	company is going to do for, I knew what it was at Sea
9	Star when I was working there but I don't know how it's
LO	working here now.
11	MS. BELL: So you don't have to give
12	recommendations for bonuses?
13	MR. PETERSON: I haven't been asked for any,
14	right, yes.
15	MR. Just a follow-
16	up. You said this year. In previous years, did you
L 7	have to give
18	MR. PETERSON: Okay. Well, when I talked
19	about this year, I was talking about the bonuses for
20	2014 which was the first year in operation then and the
21	first year that I worked for the company. Yes.
22	MR. Okay. Thank you.
23	MR. KUCHARSKI: Mike Kucharski. Just give
24	us an idea of the magnitude of the bonuses. Is it 1
25	percent or 90 percent of your overall compensation?

1	MR. PETERSON: It wasn't much, Mike.
2	(Laughter)
3	MR. KUCHARSKI: How about less than five
4	percent, is that
5	(No audible response)
6	MR. KUCHARSKI: Great. Okay. Is part of
7	your overall responsibility or one of your
8	responsibilities to develop a budget?
9	MR. PETERSON: Yes. For me that's really
10	simple because of the way that the departments are set
11	up. My budget is me. So the purchasing department,
12	that manager will set up her budget. John Lawrence and
13	his department sets up his budget. They'll confer with
14	me but it's not even really going through me for that
15	part.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: So you don't review their
17	budgets at all?
18	MR. PETERSON: I'll go over them with them
19	but they really don't have to. It goes right to the
20	comptroller.
21	MR. KUCHARSKI: And what has been the budget
22	over the last three years? Has it been flat? Has it
23	increased? Has it decreased? Or the expenditure, I
24	said, against the actual budget, has it
25	MR. PETERSON: It's generally, they have an

allowance each year just based on cost of living that 1 2 they figure it's going to bump up to that and that's 3 where we start. And then we go into it as far as figuring out, you know, different programs. 4 5 We're not a very capital-intensive company 6 because that all goes to Sea Star or the port maritime companies. So what we've got in our office, there's 7 not a lot of capital to put out there so it's just a, 8 9 usually just an operating budget. 10 MR. KUCHARSKI: I guess I'm asking 11 specifically. Let me drill down a little bit. You 12 have a purchasing department that works underneath you. 13 MR. PETERSON: Yes. 14 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, is there a budget 15 developed for the consumables, the spare parts and 16 everything on the ships? 17 MR. PETERSON: No, because it goes to Sea 18 Star, so that's going to be up to the port engineer 19 that's working for TOTE Maritime to develop that 20 budget. You get what I mean? I mean, am I clear? 21 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yes, yes. Yes, I do. I 22 just want to clarify that. You keep saying Sea Star. 23 MR. PETERSON: I know. I try to get the new 24 It's only been a few weeks so old habits are

hard to break.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Understood but just to 1 2 clarify, so Sea Star, it's TOTE Maritime. 3 MR. PETERSON: Those are interchangeable when I'm talking here, Sea Star and TOTE Maritime 4 5 Puerto Rico. 6 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, so Sea Star is no 7 longer in existence? 8 MR. PETERSON: Correct. MR. KUCHARSKI: Any questions on that 9 (inaudible)? 10 11 (No audible response) 12 MR. KUCHARSKI: Could you explain to us your 13 direct oversight of safety operations? 14 MR. PETERSON: John and I will, John 15 Lawrence and Patty Finsterbusch and I will have 16 informal conversations over the day just on what's 17 going on and then probably once a week we will all head 18 for a conference room and just sit down and talk about 19 what's happening. And there will be times when John will come 20 21 to me for what he wanted to, looking for guidance on a 22 best solution for something. But generally he's, he's 23 got a lot more experience with the safety and compliance than I have and I depend on him for his 24 25 knowledge base.

1	MR. KUCHARSKI: So then the oversight of
2	safety basically is just overseeing John?
3	MR. PETERSON: Yes, sir.
4	MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you also have oversight
5	over incidence response?
6	MR. PETERSON: That's on John again.
7	MR. KUCHARSKI: And do you ever get involved
8	with recommendations or, based on your been an engineer
9	for
10	MR. PETERSON: Yes, yes, yes.
11	MR. KUCHARSKI: 20 years and John's
12	MR. PETERSON: We do. We do. Yes. I don't
13	know if I can come up with a specific instance but it
14	happens quite a bit when he's And then the other
15	side of it is also, though, that Patty is an engineer
16	so there's a complement there as far as the two of them
17	working together.
18	MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. So would you
19	say your department is responsible for the emergency
20	response team?
21	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
22	MS. BELL: Okay, and how long has that team
23	been in place?
24	MR. PETERSON: Before I got to TOTE. Of
25	course, the new members were assigned since they moved

down here. Excuse me. There were a number of people who moved down that were still on the team. I think it's nine people on that team with John being the main contact on that.

I think there is, so we got Mitch Walker is on there and Mike Robertson (phonetic). I call those two out in particular because they have been with the company for a very, very long time, 20-plus years, and there's a lot of dependence there as far as their knowledge base on how things have happened in the past, how that team should have worked.

MS. BELL: So do you do training with the call center that is, that takes the call originally to let them, you know, help them understand and get familiar with the types of phone calls that would come into the system?

MR. PETERSON: Yes, and it's an evolving process all the time because we'll get glitches. You know, if something wasn't handled exactly how it is, then John's on the phone to them making sure they've got it right. And he will call up and just, just to see how they answer, if they're giving the correct response.

MS. BELL: And does he report that to you or

25 -

1	MR. PETERSON: We talk about it. You know,
2	when we say report, I'm always leery. It's not a
3	formal, written report.
4	MS. BELL: He talks to you about that.
5	MR. PETERSON: But, yes, we talk about it,
6	yes.
7	MS. BELL: Okay. That's all I have right
8	now.
9	MR. KUCHARSKI: Mr. Peterson, do you
10	interface with any of the crew aboard the vessels?
11	MR. PETERSON: Yes, I do. I do. I mean, I
12	worked with those guys for a lot of years as a
13	contractor and then as a port engineer, so I'll go down
14	to the ships and visit. The guys come through the
15	office.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: And who do you visit with
17	when you go on the ship?
18	MR. PETERSON: Chief engineers, captains, go
19	through the engine room. I'll see some of the thirds,
20	seconds that I've worked with over the years.
21	MR. KUCHARSKI: Is this part of your regular
22	duties?
23	MR. PETERSON: No.
24	MR. KUCHARSKI: It's not?
25	MR. PETERSON: No.

1	MR. KUCHARSKI: Did you have any interface
2	with Captain Davidson?
3	MR. PETERSON: Yes, I have. When I was a
4	port engineer, I mean, he was on there.
5	MR. KUCHARSKI: How about in your current
6	position?
7	MR. PETERSON: Seen him a couple times.
8	MR. KUCHARSKI: Are you involved in any of
9	the evaluation process of the senior personnel on the
LO	ships?
11	MR. PETERSON: Not currently.
12	MR. KUCHARSKI: Please explain that.
13	MR. PETERSON: Well, when I was port
14	engineer I was.
15	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, when I say involved
16	MR. PETERSON: Not in my current position, I
L7	am not.
18	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. How about involved in
19	the retention of any personnel that are senior
20	personnel currently, in your current position?
21	MR. PETERSON: I have been involved in the
22	interviews that we've been having for So what's
23	happened is there was a, just as we have an LNG team,
24	we also have a crewing team to select people for the
25	new ships, so that was a process going through with.

So any time we did have an interview for 1 2 captains and chief engineers and first and chief mates, 3 if they were in the office there, I would sit in on 4 those meetings. 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: And when you say sit in on 6 the meeting, could you explain? Were you there just to 7 listen? 8 MR. PETERSON: No, I was active in the 9 meetings. My questions would usually range how do you 10 interact with the engine (phonetic) department? 11 what I know so that's what I'm looking for, as opposed 12 to Admiral Greene would be on the actual navigation, 13 what are you doing? What do you do out there? 14 situation, what do you do out there in that situation? 15 MR. KUCHARSKI: So did you have, you had 16 your own set of questions during that time? 17 MR. PETERSON: I'd have a couple questions for him. 18 19 MR. KUCHARSKI: And were you aware of any 20 general questions that everyone asked or that was asked 21 of the candidate, then you reviewed those questions? 22 MR. PETERSON: You mean for distribution? 23 I'm not clear. 24 MR. KUCHARSKI: No, when you said you 25 participated, you were involved in the interviews of

those senior personnel. So besides your own question, 1 2 were there general questions that were asked and you 3 listened to what they said? 4 MR. PETERSON: Yes. 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: And who had those general 6 questions? 7 MR. PETERSON: Mick Kondracki had a lot of Jim had a lot of questions, a lot of very 8 questions. 9 good questions for them. John Lawrence was also 10 brought in any time we had a deck candidate so that 11 we'd have that representation from the deck side. 12 else was there? Mitch Walker on occasion. 13 remember him being at all of those. It was sometimes 14 just if someone couldn't make one, bringing another 15 body in there. 16 MR. KUCHARSKI: So you were involved in all the interviews of the --17 18 MR. PETERSON: Not all of them. I've been 19 traveling a lot with my other duties with the LNG world so I would say, like, I wasn't involved with Kevin's 20 (phonetic) when he came through just because I was out 21 22 of town. 23 MR. KUCHARSKI: But if you were in town --If I was in the office --24 MR. PETERSON: 25 MR. KUCHARSKI: -- you would have been part

1	of this process.
2	MR. PETERSON: If I was in the office, yes.
3	MR. KUCHARSKI: Would John Lawrence have
4	been part of the process for all the engineers that
5	were interviewed?
6	MR. PETERSON: Not necessarily and I don't
7	think he was involved in all He wasn't actually part
8	of that team, the selection team, but he became an
9	honorary member just because of his background.
10	MR. KUCHARSKI: So who were the actual
11	members of the selection team?
12	MR. PETERSON: Myself, Mick Kondracki, Jim
13	Fisker-Andersen. Who else was in there? I'd have to
14	consult my notes on that to see who the other members
15	were.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: I'm guessing Mick Kondracki
17	could probably answer that question.
18	MR. PETERSON: He probably could. He was
19	the lead on that.
20	MR. FISKER-ANDERSEN: Mike, I have a
21	question. Mr. Peterson, Jim Fisker-Andersen from TOTE
22	Services. Was Mr. Phil Greene and Mr. Phil Morrell
23	participating in those interviews as well?
24	MR. PETERSON: Yes, they both were actually.
25	And Phil Morrell was a member of that team. Phil

Greene wasn't a member of the team but he participated in all the interviews that were in the office there.

Phil always had a, he always wanted to interview anybody that's come through, that's come to work for us shoreside. That's his philosophy. He always wants to sit down and talk to anybody that we're bringing on, similarly with the crews. So any captain, chief engineers, if we were brought into the company he wanted to sit down with them and just have a talk with them, not an interview necessarily but just to have that time with them.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Point of clarification.
You've mentioned two Phils now, Phil Morrell and Phil
Greene.

MR. PETERSON: I apologize.

MR. KUCHARSKI: No, no.

MR. PETERSON: I'll try to be clearer but this was Phil Greene.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Great. And I assume, hate to assume, but was Phil Morrell who works out in Seattle there in Tacoma, 500 Alexander Avenue, let me think of the zip, did he participate telephonically or did he physically come here?

MR. PETERSON: Both. Both and as with me, as with all of us, he has a heavy travel schedule so as

1	available as we could. And they actually try to
2	schedule these around getting as many people involved
3	as they could.
4	MR. Coast Guard.
5	The senior positions that the crewing team was hiring
6	for, were these union officers?
7	MR. PETERSON: Yes, and it wasn't just the
8	senior officers because we had to fill all the billets
9	on the ships.
LO	MR. I'm speaking of the senior
L1	officers.
L2	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
L3	MR. Okay. How do you standardize
L4	your interview questions to ensure that an unselected
L5	candidate doesn't file a union grievance against the
L6	hiring practices, that the interviews were consistent
L7	across the board?
L8	MR. PETERSON: I don't think we, that's not
L9	anything we discussed as a group, I don't believe, that
20	I've been involved with.
21	MR. So do you record in any way
22	the interview questions?
23	MR. PETERSON: People are taking individual
24	notes, but as I remember it, we would get together
25	afterwards and we'd have a round table discussing what

1	we thought of the candidate. So there was not a
2	checklist. There was not anything formalized like
3	that.
4	MR. Okay. We've been told that
5	the notes for the selected candidate's hiring were
6	retained, is that correct?
7	MR. PETERSON: I'm not sure. That would
8	have been Yes, I'm not sure.
9	MR. Okay. Thank you.
LO	MR. YOUNG: This is Brian Young with the
L1	NTSB. Were either of the chief engineers from El Faro,
L2	James Robinson or, I can't remember his name.
L3	PARTICIPANT: Pusatere.
L4	MR. YOUNG: Pusatere, were they considered
L5	for interviews?
L6	MR. PETERSON: Rich Pusatere was actually
L7	slated to go on one of the new ships. He was going to
L8	take a, he was going to
L9	PARTICIPANT: Need a break?
20	MR. PETERSON: No, I'm all right. He was
21	going to take a first position. Our goal was to try to
22	have some people that had LNG experience on these
23	ships, on the new ships.
24	So that, hard decisions but, you know, that
25	meant that we couldn't bring everybody over from the

Ponce class, and that was on deck and engine, you know, 1 2 people's experience, depending on if there was any gas 3 experience. We wanted to try to bring that into the fold, I mean, just, obviously for huge safety concerns. 4 5 We want to have that culture. That was our 6 main thing, is we wanted those, and that's, you know, 7 it was out there, right out there as far as you're being brought into this because you have that safety 8 9 culture understanding and we want that at this company 10 for this LNG in particular. So that was, and so Jimmy 11 Robinson was not. 12 PARTICIPANT: Thank you very much. 13 Jimmy was going to stay with MR. PETERSON: 14 the steam ships as long as they were still running, and 15 that was also a hard one because I've known Jim for a 16 lot of years and he's done a good job for us but, you 17 know, there's just those hard choices you have to make. 18 (Off the record comments) 19 MR. PETERSON: I'm okay. I'm okay. Just a 20 moment. 21 MR. KUCHARSKI: You mentioned the strong 22 safety culture needed for LNG operations. Was there 23 some way you tracked safety culture amongst your

MR. PETERSON:

employees?

24

25

Tracked, that's a hard one.

It's a interesting way to -- No, we didn't track it but
I have to say that once this thing started rolling
along it was pretty cool. It was contagious.

I think Jean (phonetic) spoke to how everyone started wearing the hard hats and, you know, they were taking on a lot of things themselves and it was almost like everyone was trying to tune up for the new ships, to get in that mode.

We had one of our chief engineers who we used to tell him, you know, he's the hardest working guy we've got on these ships but he was also pretty scarred up from, you know, how he was working. And we told him, you know, you're obviously a candidate but we have some concerns about the safety side of it.

And now we call him the safety czar because he's just totally grabbed on to all this stuff and it's almost like he's a reformed smoker and doesn't want to see anybody else doing it.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Now, would you say that tuning up, everybody was tuning up, that was --

MR. PETERSON: That's a good term.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Well, I think you used it.

MR. PETERSON: Yes.

MR. KUCHARSKI: They were tuning up.

MR. PETERSON: Yes.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Would you say, and this is 1 2 Mike Kucharski again, would you say that was throughout 3 the company, that tuning up for? MR. PETERSON: Absolutely. Absolutely. 4 5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Now we'll ask the hard 6 question. Do you think that tuned out some of the 7 responsibilities in other areas? You spent 85 percent of your time on the --8 9 MR. PETERSON: Well, you got to remember 10 mine was a new position and so there weren't a lot of 11 those duties already entrenched for where I was coming 12 from and I had good people under me for that side. But a lot of what I'm talking about this LNG 13 14 stuff, that's the crewing part of it, that's the safety 15 part of it, that's, I mean, that's all of that stuff 16 down the line. 17 I've been out to, I went out on sea trials 18 on the new ship. It was just (inaudible) beyond being 19 involved with watches on there and stuff so we had 20 people watching what was going on. 21 That's also an awareness just for bringing 22 those online because I figured my next phase was going 23 to be the safety with the LNG on the ships as I phased out of having to worry about getting the fuel onto the 24 25 ships. That's where we were headed.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Questions around the room? 1 2 MR. (Inaudible). 3 MR. KUCHARSKI: Yes, please. 4 MR. It's with the 5 Coast Guard. So you mentioned TOTE Maritime Puerto 6 Rico a few times. I know you're with TOTE Services, 7 different company under the same umbrella of TOTE, Inc. We've talked about the fact that TOTE 8 9 Services doesn't have -- As far as oversight of safety, 10 you rely on John Lawrence and for nautical operations 11 you rely heavily on the captain. 12 So with that as kind of a backdrop, what's 13 your understanding of TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico in terms of their oversight of safety operations, nautical 14 15 operations, that sort of thing? MR. PETERSON: There is a relationship 16 17 between the, a big relationship between the shoreside 18 terminal folks and the operations folks. 19 So we've got the vice president of 20 operations with TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico. He and I 21 had a very close relationship when I was a port 22 engineer so that's continued on a lot and he's got a 23 close relationship with our port engineers now. I encouraged him then and he's held on to 24 25 making sure that he gets on the ships on a regular

basis so that he gets to know the crew and so there's a 1 2 relationship with those people also. 3 Underneath him, he's got the terminal manager who you all met, Ronald Rodriguez, and then Don 4 5 Matthews. Now, Don gets involved a lot with the cargo. 6 I mean, he's out there with the cargo. If they need 7 lashing gear, if they need anything along those lines, he's their contact for going out there. 8 9 Where am I going with safety? Your question was about safety culture, though, with --10 11 Safety, nautical operations, 12 those sorts of things, supporting the captains 13 basically. 14 MR. PETERSON: Well, that's where we're 15 coming with with supporting the captains. They know 16 that, you know, there's a lot to be said when the VP 17 from the ship's owner comes down and makes that visit. 18 I think that creates that family that we've got where 19 everybody feels free to talk to anybody in this 20 company. It really is there. And we'll have, Tim Nolan will be down there 21 22 too. He'll make trips down to the ships and stop by and say hello to the captain, say -- Tim Nolan being 23 the president of TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico. 24 25 MR. Coast Guard. Now,

going back to the interview process real quick, when 1 2 the interviews were completed, who was responsible, 3 which individual was responsible for notifying the individuals of who was selected and who was not 4 5 selected for the position? 6 MR. PETERSON: I'm not sure. I'm not sure. 7 I mean, I could, I think I have an idea but I really don't know for sure. 8 9 Okay, (inaudible). Thank you. MR. 10 MR. Coast Guard. 11 You know, I heard TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico and 12 earlier, just a little earlier today we talked about 13 the cargo barges that move lower priority cargo. 14 little confused. Is it the barges that you operate? 15 Who operates --16 MR. PETERSON: Those are chartered. They're 17 chartered. 18 Okay, and who tows them? MR. MR. PETERSON: Another charter company. 19 Ι don't remember what the name of the company was. 20 They're out of Louisiana. 21 Louisiana. But it's a 22 complete chartered operation. So in other words, they 23 bring their barges alongside. We put the boxes on it 24 and tell them to take them to Puerto Rico, so we don't 25 have anything to --

1	MR. Okay, so the barges run, and,
2	Mike, you'll correct me on this if I'm going at it
3	wrong, but the barges run back and forth from
4	Jacksonville to Puerto Rico?
5	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
6	MR. Does anybody within your
7	organization look at their weather routing or storm
8	avoidance to make sure that it operates within your
9	operational scheme?
10	MR. PETERSON: I shouldn't even speculate.
11	I really don't have anything to do with the operation
12	side with those barges.
13	MR. So who would within your
14	company?
15	MR. PETERSON: Within our company? I know
16	Jim Fisker-Andersen has some dealings with the barge
17	people but he's from the, used to be with the
18	refrigerated cargo when they were carrying for a while.
19	I think that really has to go over to TOTE Maritime
20	Puerto Rico.
21	MR. Okay. So perhaps Tim Nolan
22	could tell us about how they provide oversight of the
23	movement of your cargo?
24	MR. PETERSON: Their cargo, TOTE, yes, TOTE
25	Maritime.

1	MR. Yes, their cargo on a
2	charterer's vessel?
3	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
4	MR. Thank you.
5	MR. KUCHARSKI: Were you one of the people,
6	persons that was called for the El Faro initial call
7	out for the incident?
8	MR. PETERSON: Yes. I was driving in to
9	work and got a call, I'm really fuzzy on the time, but
10	7:30 I'm going to say, from Mitch Walker. He was
11	looking for Jim Wagstaff's new cell number so I called
12	Jim Wagstaff and informed him what we knew, that the
13	ship was dead in the water, that they were without
14	power, and about the scuttle (phonetic) being open,
15	taking on water.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. Were you actually
17	notified as part of the incident command structure to
18	come into that?
19	MR. PETERSON: Yes. I mean, once I got into
20	the office, once we had probably three of us in the
21	office, that's when we said let's go to a conference
22	room and just to huddle in and really take a good look
23	at this.
24	You know, initially, I'll be honest, I was
25	convinced that they'd get it back up and get it going

but the decision was made that we need to proceed like we've got a worst case, so that's why they called out. I thought it was kind of early to be calling up T&T and such but we did it very quickly and Coast Guard was notified right away.

John Lawrence was still at his home because he was afraid to get in the car and be away from the phone, so we finally got him into the office. I think it was late afternoon.

But by then, we had moved down to our training room which has a lot more resources, a lot more room. You know, we have all our big screen TVs down there, the monitors, and we have a large white board in that room so we could start mapping things out, what's going on. That's when Patty came into it with taking the notes that you guys all had a chance to look at.

MR. KUCHARSKI: So did you have any direct role in the incident command structure for the El Faro?

MR. PETERSON: Yes. I was put in charge of the salvage. So the contact had already been made but, you know, once this started rolling, it was I was going to be the contact with Joann (phonetic), remember what her name is. So there was a lot of phone calls going back and forth with her as far as what their progress

was coming up with assets to get down there.

We ended up, the first one that they were really secure on was the Sentry, a smaller tug. I think, oh, I'm not going to try to remember what the bollard pull on it but it was a smaller tug.

And the thought process with that was we need a bigger tug but let's get that one going because if we needed to pull the ship off some shallow areas then we'd have that maneuverability with her. It was coming out of Ponce (phonetic), which is quite a distance away so they got them underway pretty quick.

The Crowley tug, that was between the owners, between Crowley and Saltchuk talking, and I had texts and calls from Cole Cosgrove over at Crowley, who I know from some of this LNG world common meetings, keeping me up to date with what their plan was for that.

Then the, I'm trying to remember what the name of their company is. It used to be TITAN, the salvage people that Crowley owned. They've got a new name now. One of those people got in contact with me about what arrangements we wanted to make with Crowley.

Meanwhile, T&T was still working on coming up with another tug. They located the Hawk out of Fort Lauderdale. She was not going to be able to get away

until, for 24 hours because the port requires 24-hour notification for bunkering. That was the official line. We're going to try to get to the port and say, come on, we need to get her out of town here in a hurry.

The Crowley tug finally got underway. It was later than they thought. They thought they would be on station in 24 hours, is what they had originally said but they ended up getting out, I think it was, I think originally they were trying for midnight. They ended up getting out the next morning.

They then proceeded to Fort Lauderdale to pick up a naval architect and some more salvage equipment. By the time they got to Fort Lauderdale -- and then they were going to go to the Hole in the Wall and work from there as far as which direction to go, whatever guidance they got from the Coast Guard.

The Hawk did get out about when they said they were going to, by the time they got all their crews and equipment on board, and there was equipment that T&T had taken down there, pumps and such.

They wanted to know about what our storage (phonetic) crane capacity was. We're all working on we're going to bring this ship home, you know, so what equipment they needed to do that.

The Hawk was on site. She was the first one on site going into there. The Sentry then came shortly thereafter. And then the Crowley tug, it's one of the Invader class, one of their big tugs. The Hawk was actually a little bit larger than that. I want to say 80 bollard tons, (inaudible) those things.

So that was, my dealings was interfacing with the coordinator at T&T to see about getting the equipment out there.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. This is Mike Kucharski. You mentioned T&T. Who is T&T?

MR. PETERSON: They're the salvage company that we're contracted with.

MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. Going back to the actual phone call, I know that there was, you know, listened to the recording. Just a question about, after listening to that recorded conversation between the captain and the call center, what do you think about their response?

MR. PETERSON: I got to say that we knew that, I thought it was fine because, in any event, we knew that we weren't going to have anything can even get near that, planes or anything, and it ended up being two days because that storm was doing five miles an hour.

So as far as them -- I believe you're 1 2 speaking to the response that we're taking this as a, I 3 forget what the wording was, that this is a --MS. BELL: I am not sure. 4 5 MR. PETERSON: It wasn't disabled. It was -6 7 MS. BELL: Distressed versus disabled. wasn't going there. 8 9 MR. PETERSON: It wasn't in a distressed, 10 was it? 11 I'm just asking in general MS. BELL: No. 12 because they went through a whole process of asking the captain's name and the name of the vessel and all of 13 14 that. 15 And so if they were in a time-critical, I'm 16 not saying this was a time-critical situation at this 17 time, but if it was a time-critical situation, how 18 would you feel about, would you be comfortable with the 19 response that they are providing? 20 MR. PETERSON: I was. I was. And I was 21 flown down to Miami on Saturday to be in the D7 in 22 their command center room there and I have to say that 23 it gave me a whole other level of respect for what 24 these people are doing. It was an impressive 25 operation. I just was really impressed by how they

handled the whole thing. I thought they did a wonderful job.

MS. BELL: I think I need to clarify that.

I was actually talking about the call center.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

MS. BELL: Yes, that's what I was talking about. The call the captain, when the captain was talking to the call center and they asked, you know, his name and he had to spell the name of the vessel and there was a process that took a little while that seemed to get to where he got, you know, they put him on hold. He had to wait to talk to someone. In a time-critical situation, would you be comfortable with the way they handled that phone call?

MR. PETERSON: I think there could be some improvement, to be honest with you, as far as the speed of that but I think the system in a whole has served us pretty well, how that thing is set up with everybody -- I think we've talked about this between all these meetings. I don't know if you want me to review that again but, as far as how that works with the texts going out, the emails going out, do we want to talk about that again?

MS. BELL: I don't know that we need to do that.

1	MR. PETERSON: Right. Okay.
2	MS. BELL: Have you thought about any
3	changes you might make to that process since that?
4	MR. PETERSON: I really haven't given it
5	much thought yet.
6	MS. BELL: Do you think that would be
7	something that you would consider?
8	MR. PETERSON: It's possible.
9	MS. BELL: Thank you.
LO	MR. Coast Guard. I
11	just want to clear something up from just a moment ago.
L2	The company that moves the barges back and forth, you
13	said a Louisiana company and that kind of threw me off,
14	so do you know if that company is Signet Marine
15	(phonetic)?
16	MR. PETERSON: No, it's not.
L7	MR. It's not? And can you recall
18	the name of the company?
19	MR. PETERSON: I can't, no.
20	MR. Okay. Thank you.
21	MR. Coast Guard. You were
22	talking about getting, trying to get the tug away from
23	Fort Lauderdale and everything. Were you a part of any
24	conversations that involved using the El Dante
25	(phonetic) as a resource since it was already at sea?

1	MR. PETERSON: No.
2	MR. Was it ever a consideration to
3	use it as a resource?
4	MR. PETERSON: I don't know. I don't know.
5	MR. Thank you.
6	MR. PETERSON: How about a quick break?
7	MR. KUCHARSKI: Sure. Time is 2:30. Take a
8	break.
9	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
10	off the record at 2:30 p.m. and resumed at 2:44 p.m.)
11	(End 17 - 10.14 Kenneth Lee Peterson - Marine
12	Operations Mgr - TOTE Part 1. Begin 17 - 10.14 Kenneth
13	Lee Peterson - Marine Operations Mgr - TOTE Part 2.)
14	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, the time is now 1444
15	and we're resuming the interview of Lee Peterson. And
16	before I continue, I'll ask if there are any follow-on
17	questions so far on what we've discussed or what Mr.
18	Peterson has told us.
19	Mr. Peterson, have there been any changes to
20	the safety management system or any directive to the
21	fleet, safety related, since the El Faro loss?
22	MR. PETERSON: No.
23	MR. KUCHARSKI: Earlier today I believe you
24	were present at the interview of Mr. Morrell, is that
25	correct?

MR. PETERSON: Excuse me, can I go back on 1 2 that? Just to clarify when you asked about changes, we 3 were in the process of changing but nothing, so we're 4 putting out the new manuals but nothing has been 5 rewritten since the El Faro, right? Okay. MR. KUCHARSKI: Understood. No, and let me 6 7 clarify that. Any directives to the fleet relating to what happened to the El Faro, any safety-related --8 9 MR. PETERSON: No. 10 MR. KUCHARSKI: -- directives? Back to the 11 question I was starting. Mr. Morrell stated that there 12 were two weather services that TOTE subscribed to. 13 that correct? I don't know. 14 MR. PETERSON: I'm not sure. 15 MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you know what weather 16 services were available to the master of the El Faro? 17 MR. PETERSON: I know the Bon Voyage System 18 was available and there's a system that goes to the 19 SSAS (phonetic) and they have a weather fax. all I'm aware of. 20 21 MR. KUCHARSKI: Are you aware of any JHA, 22 which I understand is a job hazard analysis, for 23 weather-related risks? 24 MR. PETERSON: I am not aware of any. MR. KUCHARSKI: Any questions on that line 25

so far?

Can you tell us what the process is for updates to the safety management system?

MR. PETERSON: Sure. If the crews have a request, we have a form that they would fill out telling us exactly what their suggestion is. And then John would, John Lawrence -- I'm struggling with the acceptance part of that. I think that's his discretion as far as whether he thinks that's worthwhile or not to make that change to the system.

If they do, then they would make the change and you may have noticed it. Every time a new version goes out, first there would be the forms addendum (phonetic), I believe we're calling them, that go out for changes that come out between the revisions. We track all those, so that's the memo going out to the ships about a particular change.

And then when the new versions go out, the new revisions, anything that's changed in the SMS will be highlighted so that it's obvious for people going through it to see what's new and what's been changed.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you sign off on these changes?

MR. PETERSON: Yes, I do.

MR. KUCHARSKI: We've been talking for a few

days now in the different interviews about the safety 1 2 management system. Is that solely shipboard or is the 3 company part of that process, the safety management 4 system? 5 MR. PETERSON: The safety management is for 6 the vessels. I don't have a good answer for that. 7 don't have a good answer how far it goes over into the shoreside. We also have an ISO system that is strictly 8 9 shoreside. 10 MR. KUCHARSKI: You have an ISO system for 11 strictly shoreside? 12 MR. PETERSON: Right. 13 MR. KUCHARSKI: And is that somehow 14 integrated with the safety management system on the 15 vessel? 16 MR. PETERSON: No. 17 MR. KUCHARSKI: Let me stop there and see if 18 there are any questions, SMS or --19 PARTICIPANT: So with regards to the SMS and 20 kind of along the same lines, would you say that there's a visible commitment to the safety management 21 22 system from all levels of leadership within the 23 organization? 24 MR. PETERSON: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. 25 PARTICIPANT: But nothing with the safety

1	management system bleeds over on to the shoreside
2	operations?
3	MR. PETERSON: Well, we're aware of it. We
4	all use it for the shoreside as far as the port
5	engineers go and, yes, for that group. I'm just, I'm
6	not sure how to address that as far as what the
7	requirements are.
8	PARTICIPANT: Would you say there's working
9	knowledge of the safety management system at all levels
LO	of the organization?
11	MR. PETERSON: Yes. Yes, I do.
12	PARTICIPANT: Thank you.
13	MR. KUCHARSKI: Mike Kucharski.
L 4	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Question.
15	MR. KUCHARSKI: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.
16	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Tom Roth-Roffy, NTSB.
L7	Regarding the ISO system you mentioned for shoreside,
18	could you give the details of that, that standard
19	number perhaps and who manages that system?
20	MR. PETERSON: I can't. I'm not sure who we
21	have actually managing that system right now.
22	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Do you know the ISO number?
23	MR. PETERSON: No, I don't.
24	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Is your part of the
25	organization subject to auditing for the ISO system?

1	MR. PETERSON: No.
2	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Which section
3	MR. PETERSON: I think I may have misspoke
4	as far as the ISO. I mean, we have a I'd have to
5	get back to you on that.
6	MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay, if you would.
7	MR. KUCHARSKI: Mike Kucharski, a quick
8	follow-on question. Have you been audited personally
9	by any external auditor under the safety management
10	system or the ISO system?
11	MR. PETERSON: Since I've been in my current
12	position?
13	MR. KUCHARSKI: Yes. Yes.
14	MR. PETERSON: No.
15	MR. KUCHARSKI: How about internally? Have
16	you been audited internally under either of those two
17	systems?
18	MR. PETERSON: Yes, I have.
19	MR. KUCHARSKI: Could you tell us which one.
20	please?
21	MR. PETERSON: Our IMO SMS (phonetic), IMO
22	system, SMS. The IMO.
23	MR. KUCHARSKI: The safety management
24	system, not the ISO system?
25	MR. PETERSON: Right. Right.

1	MR. KUCHARSKI: Thank you. Let me stop
2	there. Any questions?
3	MR. SHEPHERD: Al Shepherd, ABS. I was
4	making a note when the question came up. I wasn't
5	quite sure if I understood this correctly please. With
6	regard to the safety management system, the question, I
7	think the question was in regard to what portion of the
8	company the safety management system applies to and you
9	said the vessels?
10	MR. PETERSON: Well, I guess I was thinking
11	as far as the development of the system, but it does go
12	across the whole company for sure, for sure.
13	MR. SHEPHERD: So it's implemented
14	throughout, shoreside and
15	MR. PETERSON: Yes. Yes, sir.
16	MR. SHEPHERD: Can you give me some portions
L7	of, can you give me some examples of some portions of
18	the safety management system that apply to your
19	department?
20	MR. PETERSON: More with what we've got
21	going on with the LNG part of the operation. I get
22	involved with that. That's been some stuff that we've
23	made the changes in recently for what our interface is
24	with that program.
25	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. What about some of the
ı	

things that maybe go to Jim's department, Jim Fisker-1 2 Andersen's department with engineering? MR. PETERSON: There are some regulations in 3 there as far as what the ships have to provide to the 4 5 port engineers for the, the different forms and the log 6 That's all outlined in the safety management 7 system. MR. SHEPHERD: All right. Do you get 8 9 involved in internal audits? Are you an internal 10 auditor? 11 MR. PETERSON: I'm not an internal auditor, 12 no. 13 MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. In your role as VPAs 14 (phonetic), have you had any kind of, in the times 15 you've -- First of all, let me make sure I understand 16 how you are notified (inaudible). Is the notification 17 that you, like the sheet that's posted on the ships 18 that shows John Lawrence as the VPA, as John testified to, is your name on there as assistant VP? 19 20 MR. PETERSON: No. 21 MR. SHEPHERD: It's a notification that John 22 sends out when he's on vacation or whatever? 23 MR. PETERSON: If he's out of pocket, right. 24 MR. SHEPHERD: Then they'll say you're 25 acting as VPA?

1	MR. PETERSON: Right.
2	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Have you had any, in
3	the times you acted as VPA, were there any
4	MR. PETERSON: I've never had a call in.
5	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Good. And if you did
6	get a call and it involved vessel safety, who would you
7	report that to?
8	MR. PETERSON: It would depend on what the
9	situation is.
10	MR. SHEPHERD: Right.
11	MR. PETERSON: Do you have a
12	MR. SHEPHERD: All right, well, say, let's
13	say it was a situation that was severe, severity that
14	affected the actual safety of the vessel.
15	MR. PETERSON: I think if we were talking
16	the safety of the vessel, then we would start talking
17	about bringing in our whole response team on that.
18	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Maybe I didn't ask the
19	question, I asked the question (inaudible). Do you
20	have direct line of communication? I know you do with
21	your direct report but does DPA give (phonetic) direct
22	amount of authority to the CEO?
23	MR. PETERSON: Yes. Yes.
24	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Thank you.
25	MR. Coast Guard. Would

you say that there is any competing priorities with 1 2 safety and the safety management system? 3 MR. PETERSON: No, sir. No. 4 Coast Guard. MR. 5 Can I follow up on a brief safety question? 6 MR. KUCHARSKI: Sure. 7 In your opinion is Okay. MR. 8 safety directly linked to training and vice versa? 9 MR. PETERSON: Yes. Absolutely. 10 MR. Okay. So who provides 11 training oversight within the company? 12 MR. PETERSON: Well, our major training 13 vehicle is through the unions for the ships' crews. 14 That's where they come from. 15 For the new ships, we're also providing, we've developed through the unions but it was our 16 17 development of courses to meet requirements for basic 18 and advanced LNG safety. 19 In addition to that, we've gone out to 20 training on the new gas-fired engines for all our 21 engineers who additionally are training up the terminal 22 people with awareness courses. 23 We just had that yesterday where we put 24 about 40 people through the courses, the idea being 25 that this is ship safety but we want everyone to have

an awareness of LNG and its characteristics. So that's an example of the kind of training that we're doing.

We've put all our, in addition to the terminal folks, we've had a lot of our office people go through these training courses with ABS. We flew half a dozen of them out to San Diego recently to be part of a course out there that was a full-day course with ABS for the safety side of that.

We've got involved with a local firefighting academy, with the Fire Academy of the South, to develop a firefighting course that we spearheaded bringing on there that would be a one-day course just for fighting gas fires on board ship.

This is in addition, we know that all our mariners are well-trained in firefighting. They all have firefighting courses, but this would be an addition, that extra step, but that's an example of the kind of things we're trying to do where training and safety are hand in hand.

MR. Okay. So in my mind, what you described to me is baseline training.

MR. PETERSON: No, sir.

MR. Let me just finish on that.

In other words, when you get a union officer, no matter whether it's union, AMO or SIU, they're trained to the

standards that the union provides.

But how do you provide ship-specific training for, say, you know, the El Yunque? Yunque is different than all other ships. So, I mean, how do you provide specific training for that vessel?

MR. PETERSON: Well, that was established before I got here as far as the indoctrination pamphlets and we'd have to pull those out to see what they're covering.

I've got to go back to what we're doing with the new ones, though, is we're developing training films right now with a company that, actually two different videos that are for ship-specific orientation training so that it just outlines, it's a lot of animation as well as a walk-through on a ship that will outline the safety features on that ship apart from the LNG.

And then we have another video that deals with just the LNG, so the idea being that new crew members come on board. We'd sit them down and have them watch those as well as if we just had riders on board the ship.

MR. Okay. And then looking at the organization chart, I don't see anybody labeled with the training responsibility.

1	MR. PETERSON: Correct. We don't have a
2	dedicated trainer. It's been, I've been involved with
3	the training for all the new vessels but
4	MR. And then who is responsible
5	for reviewing the shipboard training records?
6	MR. PETERSON: I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
7	MR. Thank you.
8	MR. KUCHARSKI: This is Mike Kucharski
9	again. Do you offer any training, heavy-weather
10	training handling, ship handling for the masters?
11	MR. PETERSON: Not beyond what they'd get at
12	school.
13	MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you know if heavy-weather
14	ship handling is given to them at the school?
15	MR. PETERSON: I don't know. I don't know.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you know if there is a
17	list of critical equipment kept for the vessels?
18	MR. PETERSON: Yes. I've thought about
19	that. I've seen the list but I'd have to research
20	where I saw it.
21	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, and who generates that
22	list?
23	MR. PETERSON: Oh, that was generated years
24	ago.
25	MR. KUCHARSKI: And are there critical

1	spares and critical parts?
2	MR. PETERSON: Yes, there are.
3	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. Where are those parts
4	and spares kept?
5	MR. PETERSON: On the ship, on the vessel.
6	MR. KUCHARSKI: On the ship. Or are they
7	kept in your warehouse?
8	MR. PETERSON: We also have some They're
9	not going to be the critical ones. We have a lot of
10	common parts between the ships that are kept at the
11	warehouse but critical stuff is usually kept on the
12	ship.
13	MR. KUCHARSKI: You mentioned that you have
14	oversight of safety for TSI, TOTE Services?
15	MR. PETERSON: Yes, sir.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: Does any of that bleed over
17	to TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico?
18	MR. PETERSON: They have their own safety
19	people.
20	MR. KUCHARSKI: How about TOTE Maritime up
21	in Alaska?
22	MR. PETERSON: The same. They'd have their
23	own.
24	MR. KUCHARSKI: Have you held any shoreside
25	incident response exercises?

1	MR. PETERSON: Yes. We had one, I think it
2	was brought up before in one of the sessions. We had
3	one with the El Faro. It was a request from the local,
4	I'm trying to think if it was the fire department or
5	Coast Guard. They were both involved with the
6	operation where we used the El Faro as a platform for
7	them when they were over at North Florida. We've also
8	had some tabletop exercises recently getting ready for
9	the new vessels.
10	MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay, so the one you just
11	mentioned with the fire department, so that was a
12	incident where the ship was alongside the dock?
13	MR. PETERSON: It was. The fire department
14	would like to do one with the ship in the river moving,
15	but that's kind of difficult.
16	MR. KUCHARSKI: How about any exercises with
17	the vessel at sea, say, a fire at sea or a grounding or
18	a
19	MR. PETERSON: With us, with the shoreside,
20	no.
21	MR. KUCHARSKI: General questions around the
22	room?
23	PARTICIPANT: Yes, please. Just so once
24	we're all together again, we've heard a lot of stories,
25	or not stories but a lot of different parties giving us

information about the history of the El Faro with a conversion and extension.

I know you were involved in a lot of it.

Would you be able to give us a quick summary of those
two major portions of that ship's life and kind of give
us a timeline as to what occurred and when they
happened?

MR. PETERSON: Yes.

PARTICIPANT: You seem to be the best source of information.

MR. PETERSON: Well, I'm hesitant on dates.

That's the only thing. I would have to go back and I could go back and give you the actual dates so maybe if I was a little vague on the dates.

When Totem Ocean initially bought this ship, they did the lengthening of the ship in Mobile at, I think it was called at the time, it's BAE now but it was Atlantic Shipyard I believe is what the name was at the time, Alabama Shipyard, whatever, in Mobile there.

It was taken around to the West Coast. Ran out there for many years between Tacoma and Anchorage.

After the Orcas came online, she was used as a, she was chartered out for service, a lot of it over to Europe and Middle East. That was also still working for Totem Ocean, a lot of military cargo.

Sea Star got into the Philadelphia market prior to my coming to work for them in 2010 and so to do that they brought the Northern Lights to Mobile again and did the conversion to put her, to match what they've got on the El Yunque and El Morro.

Those two ships had been converted by Matson (phonetic) from a pure RO/RO ship to the RO/CON. So it was containers on main deck lifted by gantry crane and maintaining the second, third, and tank top as RO/RO decks, going from numerous ramps on the ship to one ramp at the aft or starboard side.

Once the ship was in the Philadelphia service, that did not work out. Then she was laid up for quite a few years, the reason being the El Faro was always the one that was in the best shape of any of the ships but she did not have fructose tanks on her so that was the reasoning for not bringing her into service.

They finally decided with the new ships, they built fructose tanks. The fructose tanks for the new ships are actually loaded into the container cells so what they decided to do was have some of these built in advance, put them on the El Faro so that we could bring her into service and take the El Morro out of service.

1	And the El Morro was then scrapped, the idea
2	being that after the first ship comes into service,
3	replaces the El Faro, then the El Faro could have those
4	tanks taken back out and put onto the second ship that
5	is going into service.
6	MR. Thank you.
7	MR. SHEPHERD: Al Shepherd, ABS. Lee, do
8	you review the internal audit reports?
9	MR. PETERSON: No, I haven't. I haven't.
10	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Are those internal
11	audit reports discussed any time, you know, amongst the
12	management?
13	MR. PETERSON: Not to my knowledge. I don't
14	think they have yet.
15	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Do you happen to have
16	management reviews?
17	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
18	MR. SHEPHERD: What kind of things are
19	discussed at your management reviews with regard to
20	safety management system?
21	MR. PETERSON: There is a list of things on
22	there and I'd rather not guess and try to remember what
23	they were, but the management review is actually
24	conducted by John Lawrence.
25	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. And who attends those

1	meetings?
2	MR. PETERSON: The executive team.
3	MR. SHEPHERD: And who is that again,
4	please?
5	MR. PETERSON: That's going to be the
6	president, the vice presidents, and the director of
7	labor relations and myself and the comptroller.
8	MR. SHEPHERD: Good. Okay. Do you have any
9	recollection of, did you discuss things I'll just
10	ask you a few questions. So you don't remember the
11	list but could I ask you a few questions that might jog
12	your memory?
13	MR. PETERSON: Sure. Yes.
14	MR. SHEPHERD: Did you discuss, like, non-
15	conformities that you may have on the ships from either
16	internal audits or external audits?
17	MR. PETERSON: Yes.
18	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay, and did you discuss the
19	progress of those non-conformities or even observations
20	perhaps?
21	MR. PETERSON: You know, I don't recall.
22	I'm sorry. I don't recall.
23	MR. SHEPHERD: Okay. Okay. You discussed
24	some of the records that are required by the management
25	system as far as progresses I think with training

because you have a training matrix, a training addendum 1 2 (phonetic) I think you guys call it, that it's a matrix 3 that looks at the training that's required and --You know, I'm sorry, I don't 4 MR. PETERSON: 5 remember the details on that. Yes. 6 MR. SHEPHERD: No problem. I won't press 7 I just, okay, thank you. for it. MR. KUCHARSKI: Mr. Peterson, I have one 8 9 final question for now. Back to the shoreside safety 10 management system, I know you said you didn't know what 11 standard it was but you said something about ISO. 12 you know the exact name of it? Not ISO but is it 13 called the shoreside safety management system? I don't know. I don't know. 14 MR. PETERSON: 15 Anything else? MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. 16 I have no further questions. The group 17 doesn't have any further questions and the time is now 18 1510. The interview has ended. Thank you very much 19 for your time. 20 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went 21 off the record at 3:10 p.m.) 22 23 24 25

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CERTIFICATE

MATTER: El Faro Incident

Accident No. DCA16MM001 Interview of Lee Peterson

Miami, FL

DATE: 10-14-15

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 91 inclusive are to the best of my professional ability a true, accurate, and complete record of the above referenced proceedings as contained on the provided audio recording; further that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding has taken place; and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

NEAL R. GROSS

TABLE OF CORRECTIONS TO TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW FOR <u>KENNETH LEE PETERSON</u> TAKEN ON <u>OCTOBER 14, 2015</u>

PAGE NUMBER	LINE NUMBER	CURRENT WORDING	Suggested Wording	NTSB Response
8	12	when	and	Do not agree, transcription is correct
22	17	the	them	Do not agree, transcription is correct
22	20 & 21	Mirrorhead	MARAD	Agree
23	3		call.	Do not agree, transcription is correct
23	1	chief, major	Chief Mate	Agree
23	18	EMOS	AMOS	Agree
23	19	receipt part	receipt of the part	Agree
31	20	then	there	Agree
33	6	port maritime	TOTE Maritime	Do not agree, transcription is correct
36	6	Robertson	Roberts	Agree

36	19	is,	is supposed to,	Do not agree, transcription is correct
37	18	captain, go	captains. I go	Do not agree, transcription is correct
37	19	room. I'll	room and I'll	Do not agree, transcription is correct
38	25	process going	process we're going	Do not agree, transcription is correct
46	4	Jean	John	Do not agree, transcription is correct
47	9	you	you've	Do not agree, transcription is correct
47	10	mine	that mine	Do not agree, transcription is correct
53	23	Joann (phonetic)	Joann Hanzel	Do not agree, transcription is correct
54	10	Ponce (phonetic)	Ponce, Puerto Rico	Do not agree, transcription is correct
55	22	storage	stores	Do not agree, transcription is correct
56	22	anything can	anything that can	Do not agree, transcription is correct
59	24	Dante	Yunque	Agree

67	18, 25	VPA	DPA	Agree
68	3	VPA	DPA	Agree
76	11	or		Should be "after, um, starboard side"

If to the best of your knowledge, no corrections are needed kindly circle the statement "no corrections needed" and initial in the space provided.

NO CORRECTIONS NEED.	Initials	
Kenneth Lee Peterson		Printed Name of Person providing the above
information		
Signature of Person providing the	above information	
November 8, 2015	_ Date	

NTSB response to L Peterson Errata Sheet (00046685xAF7D8) (3)